

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter deals with the background of problem, statement of problem, purpose and significance of research, and definition of key terms.

A. Background of Problem

In *A Defense of Poetry* Shelley argued eloquently that poetry has an important social function and make perhaps greater claims for the poet than anyone had ever dared (Dent, 1998: xii). Beginning with the familiar romantic distinction between imagination and reason, Shelley proceeds to attribute the products of imagination immense spiritual and cultural powers to describe the relation of man's mind and nature.

According to Dent (1998: xii) Shelley's political view is expressed in the critique of colonialism which often proceeds by revealing colonialist and racist attitudes in colonial literary text or on a scale, engages with the whole culture. In his literary works, criticism is always seen as a political act in the service of some moral principle. Percy Bysshe Shelley grew up in a grim period, which sometimes known as the bleak age, the period of profound moral unrest and increasing political agitation which marked the years between the failure of the French revolution and the passing of the reform Bill in 1832 (Dent, 1998: xii).

The greatest influence on his political thinking was William Godwin, who later became his father-in-law (Dent, 1998: xiii). Godwin had imagined a utopian society

in which there would be no need for government; much of Shelley's poetry, early and late, delights in presenting visions of a free and regenerated society, yet growing sense of what was politically possible and a deeper understanding of human nature soon modified his belief in perfectibility (Dent, 1998: xii).

Shelley's poetry is abolishing the inequalities in society and to undermine the system of power and privilege on which they were based. In particular, this involved a reform of the electoral system, which currently excluded the vast majority of the population from the right to vote (Dent, 1998: xiii). Furthermore Shelley's unfinished literary work *A Philosophical View of Reform* (1819-1820) intended to be an instructive and readable book, appealing from the passions to the reason of men, attracted no publisher but it is a shrewd and comprehensive account which places its subject in the context of European history (Dent, 1998: xii).

According to Rascoe (1992: 371), Shelley also attacked the unequal distribution of property; paper currency, the 'Ghost of Gold', whose consequences 'have been the establishment of a new aristocracy, which its basis as the old one has its basis in force: the operation of the National Debt; the use of the standing army: the legal system, including the barbaric game laws: and the rigid marriage laws which underestimated both the rights of women and the holiness of the heart's affections. Binding together all these abuses were the church and the monarchy ('the only string to 'the destruction of the real interest of all'). Shelley crusaded with great energy: this infuses *Queen Mab* (1813), which was later known as 'the Chartist Bible' and its supporting array of essays on social and political problems (Rascoe, 1992: 371).

These took Shelley to Dublin, where he addressed public meetings, distributed and wrote his address to the Irish people (Rascoe, 1992: 371). It also animated the fiercely indignant *Address to The People on The Death of the Princess Charlotte* (1817) in which he drew attention to the way in which three leaders of a popular insurrection had been encouraged and betrayed by a government agent provocateur (Rascoe, 1992: 372).

Those statements relate to Shelley's political view of his poems, the poems begin with the line of describing the predominating concerns were moral and political. And in a piece of poetry also tell about a murder that happened in Parteloo caused injustice Parteloo given by the government against its people, and they only think about its position and wealth. Finally, for those reasons, the researcher is interested to analyze the Shelley's Political View of Industrial Revolution in Percy Bysshe Shelley's Poems.

B. Statement of Problem

The object of analysis is about Shelley's political view of Industrial revolution from the 18th to the 19th century. In that case, the whole aspects in these poems are very important to be analyzed. The political elements are also important to make the analysis more obvious. The problem, than can be specified into a question: How does Percy Bysshe Shelley presents his view of industrial revolution in his poems?

C. Purpose and Significance of Research

1. Purpose of Research

The purpose of this research as related to the question above as that is to elaborate Percy Bysshe Shelley's political views on his poems.

2. Significance of Research

This research specifically will be useful for the researcher, and students which are studying English Literature can use this research as a reference in the same problem, especially about systematical of poems. The researcher hopes that the analysis of Shelley's Political View in Percy Bysshe Shelley's poems can give researcher the skills to analyzing other poems and give other researchers the foundation for further investigation.

D. Definition of Key Terms

- a. Political View is a system of views within whose framework people perceive and evaluate both their relations to reality and to each other and social problems and conflicts, the system also comprises programs of social activity aimed at consolidating or altering (developing) the given social relationships. (Marx, K., and F. Engels, *Nemetskaia ideologiia. Soch.*, 2nd ed., vol. 3)
- b. Industrial Revolution is a process of change from an agrarian, handicraft economy to one dominated by industry and machine manufacture. It began in England in the 18th century. Technological changes included the use of iron and steel, new energy sources, the invention of new machines that increased production (including the steam engine and the spinning jenny), the development

of the factory system, and important developments in transportation and communication (including the railroad and the telegraph) (<http://www.answers.com/topic/industrial-revolution>).

- c. Genetic Structuralism is an approach in the research of literature that reveals the historical background, age, and social communities that influence the process of literary creation, both in content and in terms of its form or structure. The existence of authors in a given society has influenced his work. Thus, a particular community who supported the author by itself will create a certain type of literature (Jabrohim, 2001: 61).

Genetic structuralism as an approach to the sociology of literature, there is a relationship between literary texts with things outside the text. Things outside the text is the author and the public, and with various social problems that is felt and saw the author rewrites in the form of artistic imagination in the form of literature. This means that literature was born amongst the people as a result of the author's imagination which is a reflection of social phenomena exist.

- d. Nature never wears a mean appearance. Neither does the wisest man extort her secret, and lose his curiosity by finding out all her perfection. Nature never became a toy to a wise spirit. The flowers, the mountains, reflected the wisdom of his best hour, as much as they had delighted the simplicity of his childhood (Emerson, 1966: 22).